# Massachusetts Civics Project Showcases: Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What are the dates and locations of the 2026 Massachusetts Civics Project Showcases?**

The dates and locations for the 2026 Showcases **have not been set at this time**. Once dates and locations have been confirmed, a “Save the Date” memo will be distributed. This memo will be included in the [Literacy and Humanities Newsletter](https://us14.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=d8f37d1a90dacd97f207f0b4a&id=90092109c5), [Civics Memo](https://us14.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=d8f37d1a90dacd97f207f0b4a&id=24d58a78d8), and [Commissioner’s Weekly Update](https://us14.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=d8f37d1a90dacd97f207f0b4a&id=985a04b483).

1. **How do districts/schools register for the Showcases?**

Once registration is open, districts/schools will be able to complete a form that includes the opportunity to rank their Showcase location preferences, give information about the students attending and their projects, and let us know if you plan on requesting transportation reimbursement. There will be both a general deadline and a priority deadline for registration (**TDB**).

There are two options for registration:

* **Registering as a district:** Districts that anticipate bringing students from multiple schools to a Showcase may register with a district-wide contact to coordinate transportation and the selection of student participants.
* **Registering as an individual school:** If only one school is attending from a district, there is only one school in your district, or if district-level coordination is not possible in your setting, schools may register as an individual school with a school-based contact.
1. **Can any school/district attend any Showcase?**

At this time, only public schools in the state of Massachusetts are eligible to attend a showcase. Students from any school or district can attend any event. However, to ensure that all events remain at capacity, schools/districts will need to **rank their location preferences during registration.** Schools/districts will be given priority if they apply by the priority deadline (**TDB**) as well as based on their proximity to the event and the space available.

1. **What are the relevant deadlines and dates that I need to know about?**

At this time, the deadlines and dates for the 2026 Showcases are yet to be determined and will be updated as soon as they have been confirmed.

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| **TDB** | Priority registration deadline for transportation funding and location preference |
| **TDB** | Registration deadline |
| **TDB** | Schools/districts receive confirmation of Showcase location and transportation funding (if applicable) |
| **TDB** | Deadline to submit transportation booking information |
| **TDB** | Deadline to share participating student information  |
| **TDB** | Showcases |
| **TDB** | Deadline to submit transportation invoices  |

1. **Is there funding available for transportation?**

Yes, apply by the priority deadline (**TDB**) for transportation funding. If the need for transportation reimbursement is greater than we accommodate, we will make decisions based on school/district proximity to the Showcase event and percentage of high-needs students served.

Schools/districts should make the transportation booking themselves. However, following the event, you may either request reimbursement for transportation costs that have been paid or have our event services vendor remit payment directly.

1. **Who can participate in the Civics Project Showcases?**

All 8th-12th grade public school students in Massachusetts are eligible to participate in the Civics Project Showcases. Students must be completing a student-led civics project as part of their classwor**k. Students from any district may attend any regional Showcase.**

1. **How many students can participate from each school/district?**

Districts (or schools registering individually) should refer to the following chart to determine the number of project teams (1-4 students each) they will *likely* be able to bring. DESE may reach out to contacts for more information to make final determinations and will confirm the number of project teams allocated to each district following registration.

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| --- | --- |
| **Number of students district-wide in a given grade level (e.g. 8th grade):** | **Estimated number of project teams (1-4 students each) your district may bring to the Showcase at that grade level:** |
| Under 300 students | Two project teams |
| 301-500 students | Three project teams |
| 501-700 students | Four project teams |
| 700+ students | Five project teams |

1. **How are students selected to participate in the Civics Project Showcases?**

Participating districts/schools will determine their own process for selecting students to participate in a Civics Project Showcase. Most districts host a school-wide or district-wide showcase in May and select students to participate based on their performance in these local events. DESE will share resources throughout the semester to support districts interested in hosting local showcases.

1. **What will the Civics Project Showcases be like? What is the schedule for the day?**

We recommend watching this [video](https://youtu.be/OOQeePAgTiw) from the 2024 Worcester Showcase for a sense of what the events will be like. In short, it’s like a science fair for civics! During the event, community advisors will circulate and have short, structured conversations with students about their projects. Community advisors are local legislators, subject matter experts, educators and others who are interested in learning about student work and sharing their feedback. In addition, we will have a section of the day devoted to students sharing their projects with each other.

Each event will last from approximately **9am-1pm**. Lunch will be provided for all students and chaperones.

1. **Is there a rubric that community advisors will use during the event? Can this rubric be used in the classroom?**

Community advisors will use the rubric posted on the [DESE website](https://www.doe.mass.edu/instruction/hss/civics/showcase.html) to guide their feedback during the event. Teachers are welcome to adapt this document for classroom use and/or use it during local showcase events.

1. **What feedback and/or recognition will students receive for their work?**

In the week following the event, chaperones will receive a compilation of written feedback for their students from community advisors. This feedback is not a “grade,” but rather will focus on the strengths of student work, areas of improvement, and ideas for students to consider as they move forward with their projects.

Community advisors will also have an opportunity to nominate student projects for “commendations” based on areas of excellence in student projects. Students will receive notice of these commendations along with the written feedback. There will not be an awards ceremony on the day of the event.

1. **I have a question that wasn’t answered. How can I get additional information?**

For additional questions about the Showcase events, please reach out to Julia Lucas at julia.lucas@mass.gov.